

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS AT NATO JULY 29 ON SSOD: INSTRUCTIONS

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REFS: (A) NATO 4948; (B) USUN 1599; (C) USUN 1598;
(D) USUN 1557; (E) STATE 104340; (F) STATE 90685;
(G) STATE 67750; (H) STATE 89099; (I) STATE 170882;
(J) GENEVA 6302

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES TALKING POINTS FOR US IN
NATO POLADS CONSULTATIONS ON THE SSOD JULY 29. FOR ADDI-

TIONAL BACKGROUND ON PROGRESS IN SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOMS US
NATO SHOULD REFER TO REFERENCES B THROUGH H. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS FOR NATO POLADS MEETING
JULY 29:

-- THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ATTENTION GIVEN TO SUBSTANTIVE
ISSUES SO FAR IN THE FIRST TWO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS
OF THE SSOD. THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED AND IN NO WAY HARMS US
OR WESTERN INTERESTS, SINCE MANY OF OUR POSITIONS ON ISSUES
THAT COULD ARISE IN THE SSOD ARE STILL UNDER REVIEW AND BE-
CAUSE WE HAVE IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN TRAIN ON OTHERS
(E.G., CTB AND CW).

-- WE HAD EXPECTED RATHER MORE RHETORIC AND ACCUSATORY
LANGUAGE FROM SOME OF THE PREPCOM MEMBERS DURING THE FIRST
TWO MEETINGS. THIS HAS BEEN HELD IN CHECK BY EXTENSIVE IN-
FORMAL CONSULTATIONS, A STRONG CHAIRMAN (AMBASSADOR ORTIZ
DE ROZAS OF ARGENTINA) AND AN APPARENT DESIRE ON THE PART
OF LEADING NONALIGNED (E.G., SRI LANKA AND YUGOSLAVIA) TO
PREVENT POLEMICS AND POSTURING DURING THE PREPARATORY PROC-
ESS FROM ALIENATING THE MAJOR ALLIANCE LEADERS. WE HOPE
THIS RESTRAINT CONTINUES THROUGH THE UNGA DISCUSSIONS ON
THE SSOD AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. IN THIS REGARD ALSO
WE WERE PLEASED BY NONALIGNED PERFORMANCE IN THE DELIBERA-
TIONS ON THE AGENDA. IT WAS FIRM ON SUBSTANCE YET FLEXIBLE
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ON MINOR DRAFTING DETAILS.

-- PROCEDURALLY, WE ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE PATTERNS OF
WORK WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED AT THE FIRST TWO PREPCOMS, EMPHA-
SIZING THE UTILITY OF EXTENSIVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. WE
ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE PATTERN OF CONSENSUS DECISION
MAKING WHICH SEEMS TO BE EMERGING. WE ARE AWARE, OF COURSE,
THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS LIE AHEAD, WHEN WE DISCUSS
SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH ISSUES OF VITAL CONCERN TO
MEMBERS.

-- WITH THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22-26 SET ASIDE FOR INFORMAL
MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, WE BELIEVE THE WESTERN STATES HAVE A
GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THE THIRD PREPCOM WITH A CONSUL-
TATIVE APPARATUS IN PLACE. IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPOR-
TANT IN PLANNING WESTERN NEGOTIATING TACTICS TO CONCENTRATE
ON OUR KEY OVERALL OBJECTIVES (E.G., REF F) WHILE MAINTAIN-
ING FLEXIBILITY ON PROCEDURES.

-- WHILE ONLY LIMITED ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DEVELOP-
ING COORDINATED POSITIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN THE
WESTERN GROUP SO FAR, WE DO UNDERSTAND (REF J) THAT INFOR-

MAL WORK HAS BEGUN IN GENEVA ON A POSSIBLE WESTERN APPROACH TO A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THIS TYPE OF ANALYSIS HAS BEGUN, AND WE WILL BE PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THE GENEVA PAPERS DURING OUR MEETINGS NEXT MONTH.

-- WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST THE PAPERS SUBMITTED BY MEXICO (A/AC.187/56) ON 19 MAY 1977 AND SRI LANKA (A/AC.187/55) ON 18 MAY 1977, ON THE SUBJECTS OF A DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT AND A PROGRAM OF ACTION. WE BELIEVE THE PRINCIPLES SUGGESTED IN BOTH PAPERS ARE, ON BALANCE, STATED IN RATHER MODERATE TERMS, ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT BE IN AGREEMENT ON SOME POINTS.

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-- THE PROGRAM OF ACTION SUGGESTED IN THE SRI LANKA PAPER

IS AMBITIOUS BUT NOT POLEMICAL. IT SEEKS TO RAISE THE SENSITIVITY OF THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY POWERS TO THE WIDE FRUSTRATION FELT BY MANY WORLD LEADERS OVER THE SLOW PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT. IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE TO PUT FORWARD AN ALTERNATIVE DRAFT, IT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL FORMULATION, FOR WHILE THERE ARE SOME AREAS WHERE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, THERE ARE OTHERS WHERE BILATERAL OR REGIONAL APPROACHES MAY BE BETTER SUITED TO ACHIEVING OUR GOALS.

-- FOR ITS OWN PART THE US HAS BEGUN AN EXTENSIVE IN-HOUSE EXAMINATION OF HOW WE EXPECT TO APPROACH THE VARIOUS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH WE EXPECT TO COME UP AT THE SSOD. WE HOPE OUR STUDIES WILL LEAD TO SOME CREATIVE IDEAS AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE VIEWS OF OUR NATO ALLIES. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, SHARE OUR OWN IDEAS AND POINTS OF VIEW IN OUR ONGOING CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK AND AGAIN IN OCTOBER AT OUR SCHEDULED NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING.

-- IN CONCLUSION, WE HAVE ADOPTED A STRONG AND POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE SPECIAL SESSION, AND WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE OUR FIRMNESS WITH RESPECT TO THE GOALS STATED IN OUR RESPONSE TO THE SYG AND ALSO OUR FLEXIBILITY ON MATTERS OF FORM AND PROCEDURE. WE TAKE THE CONFERENCE SERIOUSLY AND HOPE BY OUR INVOLVEMENT TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.
VANCE

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